

AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines;

accessing a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank, wherein the software license is associated with a first license key; and

downgrading software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key such that the customer does not have rights to run the previous version of the software.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the software licenses available from the software license bank depend on a predetermined contract.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses.

5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank contains an unlimited number of licenses for some period of time.

6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the web application maintains digital records of software licenses, the digital records indicating rights associated with the software licenses.

8. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein web application can be used to adjust the rights associated with the software license.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the web application is used to provide license keys for the software.

10. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the web application uses role based security.

11. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software.

12. (Currently Amended): A license management system comprising:

a memory adapted to store a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines; and

a processor adapted to provide a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank wherein the software license is associated with a first license key and wherein the processor is adapted to downgrade software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key such that the customer does not have rights to run the previous version of the software.

13. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software licenses available from the software license bank depend on a predetermined contract.

14. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses.

15. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses.

16. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank contains an unlimited number of licenses for some period of time.

17. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses.

18. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application maintains digital records of software licenses, the digital records indicating rights associated with the software licenses.

19. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein web application can be used to adjust the rights associated with the software license

20. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application is used to provide license keys for the software.

21. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application uses role based security.

22. (Original): The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software.

23. (Currently Amended): A computer readable media comprising software to instruct a computer to do the steps of:

maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines;

in response to a user accessing a web application, allowing the user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank wherein the software license is associated with a first license key; and

downgrade software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key such that the customer does not have rights to run the previous version of the software.

24. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software licenses available from the software license bank depend on a predetermined contract.

25. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses.

26. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses.

27. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank contains an unlimited number of licenses for some period of time.

28. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses.

29. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application maintains digital records of software licenses, the digital records indicating rights associated with the software licenses.

30. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein web application can be used to adjust the rights associated with the software license

31. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application is used to provide license keys for the software.

32. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application uses role based security.

33. (Original): The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software.

34.-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines;

accessing a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank, wherein the software license is associated with a first license key; and

upgrading/downgrading software associated with first license key including obtaining a second license key and disabling the first license key such that the customer does not have rights to run the previous version of the software;

wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined dollar amount of licenses.